THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Project Definition Phase of the LCA programme is currently under progress. The extent of participation by National Aeronautical Agencies and Public/ Private Sector Industries in appropriate areas of technology/design/production shall be identified during this phase.

Assistance to Tripura Government in tackling problem of Bangladesh refugees

27. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 17 thousand Bangladeshi refugees had come to Tripura recently as reported in 'Bharat Katha' on 28th June, 1986;

(b) if so, the details of the number of refugees who have come to Tripura during the last six months, monthwise; and

(c) what are the details of the action taken by the Centre to help the State Government to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The recent influx of Bangladeshi refugees started on 29-4-1986. Since then 18,399 tribal refugees have entered into Tripura upto 14-7-1986. The monthwise break-up is:—

	Progressive Total
April : 1470	
May : 8066	9536
June : 8454	17990
July : 409	
(upto 14.7.86)	18399

(c) The strength of BSF has been increased to prevent further influx. An amount of Rs. 51 lakhs has been sanctioned to the Government of Tripura for meeting the exprenditure on the maintenance of refugees.

Financial and procedural irregularities in Kendriya Bhandar

28. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1844 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th March, 1986 regarding financial and procedural irregularities in Kendriya Bhandar and state:

(a) whether the C.B.I. has since completed the investigations and submitted its report;

(b) if so, when,

(c) what are the findings of the C.B.I. in the matter; and

(d) what action has so far been taken by Government or Kendriya Bhandar against the persons involved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report of the CBI was received towards the end of May, 1986.

(c) The CBI has held responsible one Sales and Purchase Executive responsible for irregularities in placing orders without following the prescribed procedure.

(d) The Kendriya Bhandar has chargesheeted the officer and the disciplinary proceedings are in progress.

Non-implementation of award of Industrial Tribunal by the F.C.I.

29. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any award of the Central Government Industrial Tribunal Chandigarh, against the Food Corporation of India which has not been implemented so far; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for its non-implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The awards given by the Central Government Industrial Tribunal Chandigarh relate to service conditions of casual workmen engaged by the Senior Regional Manager, Food Corporation of India, Chandigarh. These awards have not been implemented since either the casual workmen or the management have gone in appeal to the Supreme Court against the awards or the same is under examination in F.C.I.

Improvement of wasteland

30. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the land in our country is under-utilised, unirrigated and low yielding;

(b) whether it is also a fact that nearly 80 million hectares of degraded land has already been classified as wasteland, unfit for any cultivation; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what action Government propose to take to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no comprehensive and repeat survey in the country as a whole to provide precise estimate of wastelands. According to information given in the various reports including that of National Commission on Agriculture, an overall estimate is that an area of about 175 million hectares in the country is affected by the problem of soil erosion and land degradation.

(c) Land degradation occurs due to variety of causes like deforestation, unscientific management of land and water resources, poor drainage, unplanned road building, seepage from large canal projects causing water logging and salinity, a very low level of stall feeding leading to overgrazing and consequent degradation of land.

The Government of India have set up a National Wasteland Development Board to bring wastelands in the country under productive use through a massive programme of tree plantation. A copy of the Action Plan drawn by the National Wastelands Development Board is placed on the table of the House. *(See below)* Besides, there are schemes under the supervision of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for saving land resources from degradation.

ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan drawn up by the National Wasteland Development Board and accepted by the State|UT Governments for implementation has the following key elements:—

1. *Identification of Wastelands*:

Each State|U.T. Government has been requested to identify wastelands in their territory whether they be in forest area, revenue|common lands or degraded farm lands.

2. *People's Involvement*:

This will be ensured by the following measures:—

(a) *Decentralised Nurseries*: People's nurseries *i.e.* kisans, schools, women, youth groups, voluntary agencies, etc., will be motivated to meet the increased demand of seedlings.

(b) *Farm Forestry*: Farmers will be motivated to take up tree farming on their marginal lands and planting on their filed bunds. A rational policy in regard to distribution of seedlings should be evolvde.